

the selection of a silk umbrella only one of the greatest and best silk is a profitable investment. The use of the finestest silks once brought American silks into disfavor, and the wise purchaser then insisted upon an English umbrella. It is not now the case. An umbrella which rivals the best product of British manufacture is now made in this country. The best silk for an umbrella is of even warp and wood without a twill weave. It is more durable, more durable, and a slight strain on that portion of the fabric will not break the twill. In a plain weave there is equal strain on all parts. An twistis green or dark silk often wears better than plain black, because it cannot grow rusty, as a dead black is liable to do. Fancy silver handles have been so used on cheap, showy umbrellas that fastidious people frequently prefer an umbrella handled with a natural wood, simply banded with silver and having a simple script round the band with the maker's name. Some of the finer pieces of wood used by makers who make the best umbrellas